

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00  
CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05 OES-07  
OMB-01 AGRE-00 /067 W  
-----006490 220130Z /73

P 220034Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9714  
DEAHQS WASHDC PRIORITY  
CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
ALL CONSULATES MEXICO BY POUCH

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DEA MEX 0408  
DEAHQS FOR ENOL, EN, IG

EO:11652:N/A  
TAGS:SNAR/MX  
SUBJECT: GOM ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION ACTIVITY REPORT,  
APRIL 8 THROUGH APRIL 14, FIELD OPERATIONS THROUGH  
APRIL 21, 1978.

1. GOM ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION STATISTICS FOR THE  
FIFTEENTH WEEK OF 1978 ARE OUTLINED BELOW. FIGURES IN  
PARENTHESIS REFLECT CUMULATIVE TOTAL EFFECTIVE DECEMBER,  
1977.

ERADICATION APRIL 8-14, 1978  
ZONES 05-09 03-04 01-02 TOTAL

A. POPPY FIELDS 199 1 68 268 (14,142)  
B. HECTARES 19.18 .02 1.57 20.77 (1121)  
C. MARIHUANA 32 14 45 91 (1646)

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D. HECTARES 7.37 .64 1.2 9.21 (350)  
E. MIXED FIELDS 0 1 0 1 (104)  
F. HECTARES 0 .18 0 .18 (10)

INTERDICTION APRIL 8-14, 1978  
- THIS PERIOD CUMULATIVE TOTAL  
A. KG. HEROIN 4.845 55.965

B. KG. OPIUM	2.28	214.232
C. KG. POPPY SEEDS	.500	56.014
D. HEROIN LABS	1	8
E. KG. COCAINE	5.09	31.5
F. KG. MARIHUANA	14,251	229,891
G. KG. MARIHUANA SEEDS	20.7	758.897

H. KG. HASHISH	0	52.65
I. LITERS HASHISH OIL	0	.250
J. KG. PEYOTE	.750"	11.85
K. D.U. DANGEROUS DRUGS	1,400	1,061.019
L. ARRESTS-MEXICAN	152	1617
M. ARRESTS-U.S.	5	58
N. ARRESTS-OTHER	0	11
O. VEHICLES	28	256
P. WEAPONS	37	645
Q. AMMUNITION	3,406	27,110
R. PESOS	18,000	433,399
S. DOLLARS	0	11,942
T. AIRCRAFT	2	23

2. ERADICATION STATISTICS FOR THE 15TH WEEK OF 1978 HAVE  
BEEN COMPARED WITH THOSE FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN 1977.  
268 POPPY FIELDS WERE DESTROYED DURING THE 15TH WEEK OF  
1978 (7 DAY PERIOD) AS COMPARED WITH 662 POPPY FIELDS  
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DESTROYED DURING THE SAME WEEK IN 1977 (8 DAY PERIOD), AN APPROXIMATE 60 PERCENT DECREASE IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FIELDS DESTROYED. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT DURING THIS PERIOD IN 1977 APPROXIMATELY 92 PERCENT OF THE ERADICATION OF POPPY FIELDS OCCURRED IN ZONE 06, CULIACAN, SINALOA; THE REMAINING 8 PERCENT IN ZONE 05 DURANGO, DURANGO. DURING THE 15TH WEEK OF 1978 APPROXIMATELY 75 PERCENT OF THE DESTRUCTION OF POPPY FIELDS OCCURRED IN ZONE 06 CULIACAN, SINALOA, AND REMAINING 25 PERCENT IN ZONE 02 CHILPANCINGO, GUERRERO. 20.77 HECTARES OF POPPIES WERE DESTROYED DURING THE 15TH WEEK OF 1978 AS COMPARED WITH 137.52 HECTARES DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN 1977, AN APPROXIMATE 84 PERCENT DECREASE IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HECTARES DESTROYED. THERE IS NO CHANGE TO THE BASIC TREND OF SMALLER SIZE FIELDS IN 1978 AS COMPARED TO 1977.

3. DEA IS PROVIDING ANALYTICAL SUPPORT TO A 30-DAY VERIFICATION MISSION CONDUCTED BY THE NAU. THIS SUPPORT INCLUDES IDENTIFICATION OF LARGE CONCENTRATIONS OF POPPY FIELDS, BOTH FOUND AND/OR DESTROYED, BY SECTOR AND COORDINATES IN THE MOST ACTIVE MEXICAN ZONES, 02 CHILPANCINGO, GRO.; 05 DURANGO, DGO.; AND 06 CULIACAN, SINALOA.

INITIALLY THIS DATA IS BEING COMPILED FOR THE U.S. TEAM

FOR THE MONTHS OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH, 1978. ADDITIONALLY  
DEA RECEIVES TELEPHONE DAILY REPORTS FROM THE TEAM RE-  
GARDING MISSIONS FLOWN (ZONE, SECTOR AND COORDINATES).  
ANALYSIS OF THIS DATA WILL BE PROVIDED IN A FUTURE RE-  
PORT.

4. FIELD OPERATIONS:

A. ZONE 01, OAXACA: FIELD TESTS WERE CONDUCTED USING  
BOTH MANUAL AND AERIAL APPLICATION OF GRAMOXONE MIXTURE  
WITH COLORING AGENT, RHODAMINA-B. PRELIMINARY TESTS DID  
NOT YIELD DESIRED RESULTS AS HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF DYE  
WAS REQUIRED BEFORE REDDISH EFFECT WAS VISIBLE TO THE  
EYE. THUS FAR A DILUTION RATE OF FOUR TO SIX TABLE-

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CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05 OES-07  
OMB-01 AGRE-00 /067 W  
-----006573 220130Z /73

P 220034Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9715  
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SPOONS (30 TO 40 GRAMS) OF DYE PER GALLON HAS PROVEN TO  
BE EFFECTIVE AND HIGHLY VISIBLE ON CONTRASTING BACKGROUND  
ALTHOUGH TWO TABLESPOONS (15 GRAMS) MAY PROVIDE GOOD RE-  
SULTS AS THE MARIHUANA LEAVES PROGRESSIVELY CHANGE IN  
COLOR FROM THE HERBICIDAL ACTION. IF THE ULTIMATE GOAL  
IS TO REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF GRAMOXONE-SPRAYED MARI-  
HUANA FROM BEING HARVESTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER APPLICATION,  
THERE MAY BE AN UNEXPECTED BONUS AS THE COLORING AGENT  
HAS A STRONG STAINING EFFECT ON CLOTHING AND HUMAN SKIN  
UPON CONTACT AND THIS COULD SERVE AS A DETERRENT TO THE  
COMPESINOS. THE FIELD TEST CREWS ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT  
THEIR STAINED CLOTHING AND BODY AS IT TAKES VIGOROUS  
SCRUBBING WITH SOAP AND BRUSH TO REMOVE THE REDDISH

STAINS. ANOTHER BONUS RELATES TO THE HIGHLY VISIBLE REDDISH-COLORED SPRAY FLUME WHICH FLOWS FROM THE SPRAY NOZZLES AND CLEARLY MARKS THE SPRAY SWATH ON THE GROUND. THIS FEATURE TENDS TO ECONOMIZE THE NUMBER OF SPRAY RUNS AND REDUCES THE OVERLAP OR POSSIBILITY OF RE-SPRAYING ENTIRE FIELDS, IF NOT AREAS. EXPERIMENTS ARE UNDERWAY TO HARVEST AND PACKAGE GRAMOXONE-SPRAYED MARIHUANA WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COLOR ADDITIVE TO DETERMINE PERSISTENCY AND/OR VISIBILITY OF THE DYE. INSPECTION OF SPRAYED FIELDS IS YIELDING SOME OPTIMISTIC RESULTS AS REDDISH-TINGED RESIDUE BECOMES MORE VISIBLE AS MARIHUANA CHANGES COLOR TONE DUE TO HERBICIDAL ACTION.

ZONE 02, CHILPANCINGO: EVALUATION/VERIFICATION FLIGHTS COMMENCED AS SCHEDULED UTILIZING ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT ONLY WITH AN "OPEN SKIES" POLICY IN FULL FORCE TO ALLOW JOINT TEAMS TO FLY ANY SECTOR THEY SELECTED AND LAND IN ANY FIELD, SECURITY SITUATION PERMITTING. PRELIMINARY REPORTS ARE NOT YET CONCLUSIVE AS TO THE EXTENT OF AN EFFECTIVE SPRAY CAMPAIGN IN ZONE 02. FIELD REPORTS INDICATE A NOTICEABLE SCARCITY OF MATURE, HEALTHY POPPY FIELDS COMPARED TO THE HIGH NUMBER OF DEAD FIELDS DETECTED FROM SPRAY EFFECTS. JOINT CREWS WERE STRICTLY TASKED TO LAND IN ALL TYPES OF POPPY FIELDS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN PLANT AND CAPSULE SAMPLES TO DETERMINE PRECISE CAUSE OF PLANT DEATH, I.E., NATURAL CAUSE DUE TO LIFESPAN, BECAUSE OF SCORING EFFECTS, OR FROM HERBICIDAL ACTION.

THE LARGEST, MATURE POPPY FIELD DETECTED THROUGH APRIL 20, CONSISTED OF A PLOT OF 50 METERS SQUARE (APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF ACRE) IN SECTOR 252 IN THE PROXIMITY OF CAMARONES. ON A DAILY BASIS, THE PROJECT LEADER IS EXHORTED THROUGH TELEPHONE CONTACT TO MAKE AN EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH OF ALL CRITICAL SECTORS TO RENDER MOST ACCURATE EVALUATION POSSIBLE. EMBASSY PROJECT LEADER STATED THEY WOULD COMPLETE THEIR MISSION BY END OF WEEK, RETURN TO MEXICO CITY FOR COMPILATION OF REPORTS, AND PROCEED TO ZONE 06, CULIACAN.

### 3. OPIUM TREND IN GUERRERO.

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DEA HAS REPORTED THAT A CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT WITH FOUR

SUB-SOURCES PROVIDED INFORMATION ON OPIUM TRENDS IN GUERRERO AS OF EARLY APRIL. ACCORDING TO DEA REPORT: (A) ONE KILO OF OPIUM IN IGUALA SELLS FOR 80,000 PESOS, 23 PERCENT PRICE INCREASE OVER FALL OF 1977; (B) ONE KILO OF OPIUM IN COYUQUILLA, ON COASTAL HIGHWAY, SELLS FOR 120,000 PESOS, 50 PERCENT PRICE INCREASE OVER FALL 1977; CAMPESINOS INSIST THAT NEW CUSTOMERS BUY SMALL QUANTITIES TO PREVENT POSSIBLE SEIZURE OF SCARCE GUM; POPPY SEED HAS DOUBLED IN PRICE SINCE LAST YEAR, NOW SELLS FOR 1,000 PESOS PER LITER; SPRAY HELICOPTER ACTIVITY HAS INCREASED THIS YEAR; SOME SMALL FIELDS ARE MISSED, BUT THERE IS NO PATTERN TO INDICATE ATTEMPT TO AVOID SECTIONS OR PROTECT FIELDS.

B. ZONE 10, MEXICO CITY BASE:

(1) AERO SERVICES: CHIEF HERNANDEZ-RUIZ REQUESTED THE RESIGNATIONS OF SENIOR PILOT PAZ-SILVA, WHO HAS BEEN THE DE FACTO CHIEF FOR YEARS DUE TO HIS STRONG PERSONALITY AND INFLUENCE AMONG THE PILOT RANKS, AND LIC. ABUNDIZ-GUZMAN, WHO HAS SERVED AS CHIEF OF OPERATIONS FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS. HERNANDEZ CONSIDERS BOTH MEN AS NEGATIVE FORCES IN HIS EFFORTS TO INSTILL PROFESSIONALIZATION AND CLOSER COORDINATION BETWEEN MAINTENANCE, OPERATIONS, AND ZONE COORDINATORS' REQUIREMENTS.

(2) TELECOMMUNICATIONS: ON APRIL 18, THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND NAU ADVISORY STAFF MOVED TO THE RENOVATED AG HANGAR. MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY ARE STILL IN PROCESS OF MOVING TO NEW CONSOLIDATED FACILITY. THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF TELE-COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION WAS TRANSFERRED TO MANAGE THE COMPUTER PROJECT IN THE AG BUILDING.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00  
CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05 OES-07  
OMB-01 AGRE-00 /067 W  
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P 220034Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9716  
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(3) MAINTENANCE: THE MEXICAN AIRCRAFT (MAF) MODEL 206-B HELICOPTER REPAIRED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT DATED MARCH 8, 1977, WAS RETURNED TO MEXICO ON APRIL 16, AND RELEASED TO THE MAF. THE ENTIRE REPAIR CYCLE WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN THE SIX MONTH PERIOD AS SCHEDULED.

(4) THE THREE E-SYSTEMS TECHNICIANS WHO WERE TEMPORARILY ASSIGNED TO MEXICO UNDER THE CALL-PERSONNEL CLAUSE TO ARRANGE THE SUPPLY STOCK CARDS, CONDUCT INVENTORY, AND ESTABLISH STOCK LEVELS AND REORDER POINTS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR MISSION.

(5) EMBASSY COMMENTS: THE MARCH REPORT PREPARED BY THE CONSULATE IN MAZATLAN UNDERSCORES THE CONTINUED DROUGHT IN SOUTHERN SINALOA AND THE DIRE EFFECT ON THE CATTLE AND AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY. FIELD REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS PROVIDED FROM OBSERVERS WHO HAVE VISITED ZONE 06 SECTORS SUBSTANTIATE THE WIDE-SPREAD EFFECT OF THE DROUGHT IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AREAS WHERE ILLICIT CULTIVATION TAKES PLACE.

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CAMPESINOS HAVE RESORTED TO EXTENSIVE IRRIGATION THROUGH LAYING OF PLASTIC HOSE OR MANUAL WATERING OF FIELDS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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